



## The Trip to the Far East and Japan in 1979

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A few days ago I returned from my first trip to the Far East where I participated in the Forestry Symposium of the XIVth Pacific Science Congress in Khabarovsk, USSR and then visited forests in Japan for a few days. I am indebted to many people who were involved in financing, planning or hosting portions of this stimulating and enriching experience, I particularly acknowledge David and Irene Fisher of Tokyo who in addition to being the most gracious of hosts coordinated the days in Japan, filling them to the utmost.

The Far East Republic of the USSR covers a vast area much of which is very cold. Khabarovsk, a city of over 400,000 people, is located on the Amur River just north of China and has more frost free days than Maine and probably more productive forest land. This was the first occasion for Khabarovsk to be the host for an international meeting of well over 1,000 scientists including many foreigners. In 1975 I had the pleasure of participating in the International Botanical Congress in Leningrad and in my observation Khabarovsk was equally as good a host with reference to all aspects of logistical support. We had our own bus service to all meeting buildings, our own mailing service for publications, well planned tours, good food and lodgings, etc. There were signs all over the city and flags welcoming the visiting scientists. Everything possible was done for the visitors and the planning committees are to be warmly congratulated on their efforts and accomplishments.

Japan is about the same size as California, is over 60% forested because of steep mountains and has a population of about 116,000,000 -- 5.5 times that of California. A mild climate, much rain and good soil are important factors in Japan. And the people are so industrious, hard working, intelligent and careful of all space plus being artistic, etc. Only disciplined people could live in such large cities

and prosper. Everything about Japan seems incredible to me, particularly coming from a rather rural environment. Only a few days in the Far East is insufficient to make judgements about that portion of the USSR or Japan but I was much impressed with both countries and everything that I saw and did. Again, may I say that this was a rich and rewarding experience that expanded my knowledge of intensive forest management in another part of the world.

#### Tuesday and Wednesday, August 21st and 22nd

I selected Japan Air Line for the New York-Tokyo round trip because it stopped in Anchorage, Alaska. The daylight trip west and cloudless conditions in Alaska permitted me to have my first view of that vast mountainous area particularly Mt. McKinley and a mountain near Anchorage that my son and his friend had climbed several years ago. Japan Air Line provides by far the best food and service of any major airline.

Arrived at the International Airport at Narita in the late afternoon and took the 90 minute bus ride to Tokyo Air Terminal where the Weyerhaeuser chaeuffer met me and took me to the Fisher's residence. Enroute he pointed at places of interest such as the emperor's palace, American embassy, etc.

#### Thursday, August 23rd

Mr. David Fisher is executive vice-president in charge of the Tokyo office of Weyerhaeuser Company. We were driven to his office where he outlined the scope and magnitude of the Weyerhaeuser operations in Japan. Then I spent the rest of the morning reading detailed reports of company forests who had visited private forest operations in a variety of places in Japan. This was most helpful as it gave me an opportunity to think about planting 150 trees per day in steep terrain, weeding twice a year for up to eight years, periodic pruning and thinning and stumpage prices of individual "sugi" trees at 50 years of age currently at \$250.00 per tree. Much of this is mind boggling until you recognize the Japanese insistence on high quality and the use of sugi and hinoki poles as part of living room decoration.

After lunch in the Tokyo American club I was driven to Haneda airport where I took a one hour flight to Niigata. Between the flying height and clouds it was not possible to see much. Due to jet lag I thought I'd take a nap before supper and so lay down on the bed fully clothed about 5:00 p.m. Close to 10:00 p.m. I woke up and got undressed and got between the sheets and fell asleep almost immedi-

ately. Then about 2:00 a.m. I was wide awake. Variations on this theme lasted for about five days as I crossed 11 time zones between Orono and Khabarovsk.

#### Friday, August 24th

Mr. Makino of the Nissho Iwai Trading Company was my host. He met me at the hotel and took me to see the log ports where Russian and North American logs are piled by species. He discussed the marketing problems obtaining the logs of the high quality demanded by the Japanese. After a Japanese style steak lunch we visited a mill producing "do-it-yourself" boards by glueing and processing pieces of west coast spruce. Enroute to the airport he inquired about my research and I agreed to show my slides on my return if he would do the interpreting.

The flight from Niigata to Khabarovsk took two hours in an Aero-float jet. We had a good box lunch on the plane which was timely as it took some hours to be processed and get to our hotels. As we approached Khabarovsk we flew near the Amur River which meanders through a very wide flat area. The river is very wide and the delta equally wide. A biologist from Harvard was as impressed as I with the size of the river and delta.

#### Saturday, August 25th

The headquarters of the congress were located in the Railroad Engineering Institute so I went there first to pick up all necessary papers and information. Then I took the congress bus to the Far East Forestry Research Institute where all of the forestry sessions were held. Almost the first person that I met was the lady interpreter assigned to the forestry meetings. She normally teaches English in Vladivostok. As the only English speaking scientist present, she stayed with me each day during the sessions and was excellent. It is no simple feat to translate from one to another as she did so efficiently. Because of her and the lady translator permanently assigned to the Forestry Institute I had no language barriers.

Then I met Dr. V. T. Chumin, the director of the Institute with whom I had corresponded concerning the congress. There were no question but that we were pleased to meet. Next I met the secretary of the meeting, a professor of dendrology, who kindly gave me three of his recent books. I cannot locate his card and I had the books mailed so it is embarrassing not to write his name. Business cards are a "must" in Japan and some were made for me for that portion of the trip with English on one side and Japanese on the other. I wish

that I had them in the USSR as they are such a handy device when you are meeting many people. The card system is commonly used in the USSR. Then I met Academician I.S. Melekhov, the chairman of the Forestry Symposium of which I was co-chairman. In Soviet scientific circles achievement of the rank of "academician" means topflight scientific accomplishment. During the 1971 IUFRO congress in Gainesville, Florida, Dr. Melekhov and I passed on the sidewalk but did not meet.

During the morning a local reporter interviewed me through the interpreter. I was surprised and pleased on Monday when he brought his article for me to read via the interpreter before publishing it. There was one small technical error but otherwise it was fine. The morning scientific session was identical with any on this continent or Europe with one departure. In the Soviet system, after all papers are given with time after each for questions, the last item on the agenda is time for anyone to make a comment. No one utilized the opportunity. There was no afternoon session as there had been several full and busy days. I was glad to have the free time as jet lag demanded another long nap; but this time I used an alarm clock so that I wouldn't miss the combined reception and banquet hosted by the USSR for all delegates.

To handle more than 1,000 people the affair was held in a very large Sports Palace. An innovation for me was that it was a stand up affair rather than a sit down meal. This was a very neat arrangement as it was very easy between and during courses to visit with scientific friends and colleagues. The tables were loaded with all good things to drink and eat. In addition, we had some excellent entertainment by artists from Moscow. The entire affair was very well done and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves.

### Sunday, August 26th

Got up about 6:00 a.m. to get back in the jogging routine which is also a way of becoming acquainted with a new city. I observed that many people were out watering down and sweeping the sidewalks as Khabarovsk is a clean city. Some made comments or smiled much as in American cities and there were Soviet joggers out so we waved and greeted each other as joggers do everywhere.

A tour had been arranged for the meeting to visit the forest outside the city. This appealed to the American contingent so I met people from many different disciplines as we drove and walked about in the sunshine. Khabarovsk is near a coal supply which is used to prepare electricity and steam heat for the many apartment buildings in the city. As we got to the outskirts of the city we saw many plots for family

gardens and some had a little "dacha" as a sort of summer home. Everyone enjoyed being outdoors.

In the afternoon I took the boat trip on the Amur River. The boat was crowded with the majority being Soviet citizens. We cruised about leisurely for about two hours circling a fairly large island. It was warm in town but cool out on the river. I was with an American couple and their seven-year-old daughter. I went to the snack bar on the ship intending to purchase some bottles of lemon soda which I distributed to my friends. Before the little girl started drinking I discovered that I had bought beer.

#### Monday, August 27th

A TV crew from the local station was on hand with their equipment including lights. They used this to get the start of my paper and then they completed the interview in the gardens outside the institute during the morning coffee break. I missed seeing it on TV Wednesday evening as I was being interviewed by the press at the time.

I gave my paper in the morning as a slide presentation in which I emphasized the development of the hydraulic vibrator stump-root harvester as an accomplishment of the L. B. Foster Company. This, of course, led to my efforts to plant tall seedlings following such harvesting. All of this was quite new to most of the audience so there were many questions following my presentation.

In the afternoon I functioned as chairman. There were English translations of most papers but, if not, my able translator was of great help. Academician Melekhov had given his paper the day before I arrived. After finishing my paper he told me that he had been along the same line as my Complete Forest Concept and when I read the English version of his paper I was pleased. He also told me that a Soviet engineer is working on a Complete Tree Harvester and that he would see that I got information about it.

#### Tuesday, August 28th

All of the foreign visitors were located in two Intourist hotels. Intourist is the Soviet agency that handles the tourist business. This worked out well as we ate together and in that way got to meet many people from different countries.

There is a well kept arboretum with over 1,100 specimens adjacent to the Forest Research Institute. This morning there was a leisurely tour with the translator for the institute assisting the

specialist in taxonym. She also translated the following day in the forest tour. From our informal chats I learned that she has a daughter in medical school and she learned about my granddaughter. On Wednesday, just before leaving the Institute, she gave me a children's book in which the figures pop up as you turn the pages. She expressed some concern because the text was in Russian. I assured her that my granddaughter at nine months was positively brilliant at speaking all languages as she says "ba-ba", "ma-ma", "da-da", etc. which are well known everyone. These are the little moments which one treasures so much.

In the afternoon there were slide presentations and films of various portions of the Far Eastern Republic. To me they looked just like Maine. I'm sure their problems are similar if not identical with ours.

### Wednesday, August 29th

A six hour field trip not far from where the buses stopped on Sunday. We were about 20 kilometers south of Khabarovsk on the road to Vladivostok. We walked through a number of conifer and mixed conifer and hardwood forests that were all growing well. Then we walked in a mixed forest containing a number of old large softwood and hardwood trees. The area we were in is being maintained as a natural park like area because it is close to the city and a favorite place for people to go for recreation.

When we returned to the institute about four o'clock the foreign scientists and some soviet scientists, a group of about 16, were invited for a special "little lunch". I forgot to say that we had eaten at mid-day in a delightful spot in the forest. As we walked into the snack room we found that it had been converted into a banquet room and, as one person said, "the table was worth photographing". It was colorful with flowers, bright dishes of food containing salmon, tomatoes, many other food items, many bottles, many glasses. Much of everything. There were many toasts given. I gave one that I would like to repeat in which I said "With Academician Melekhov and me it was not a question of socialism versus capitalism but of biomass versus conventional volume measurement. In as much as a man of his stature agreed with me that we should use biomass I was confident that we would forge ahead and win".

### Thursday, August 30th

Didn't attend the forestry biomass meeting as we were to take the bus at noon in order to go through all process for a 3:00 p.m. flight

to Niigata. Mr. Makino met me there as planned and after dropping my bags at the hotel we went to a restaurant. There were 13 men from his company and we had a Chinese dinner prepared Japanese style at two circular tables with a rotating inner table. Delicious food. Then we went upstairs to a room equipped with a screen and a 35 mm. projector. I showed all of my slides in a session that lasted over two hours. Mr. Makino did the interpreting for me. After a while I really didn't need an interpreter as the slides showed so much that with a little body language my Japanese audience and I communicated quite readily both ways.

### Friday, August 31st

Mr. Paul Takenaka, Mr. Fisher's assistant, had sent my train tickets to the hotel so that I could take the 8:18 a.m. train to Tokyo which arrived at 12:33 p.m. Paul made all of the phone calls and took care of all the details of the arrangements superbly. He even had states in English and Japanese in case of any kind of an emergency. The train trip permitted me to enjoy the steep mountains, the villages, the rice fields and other crops. I didn't count the tunnels but there were many of them. I'm glad I took the train instead of the plane back to Tokyo.

When the train stopped my next host, Professor Taisitiroo Satoo, recently retired from the Faculty of Forestry, Tokyo University was standing outside my window as he knew what car I would be on. I have known "Tai" for many years as we have been at a number of the same scientific meetings. He is internationally famous for his forest ecological studies of a scientific nature and he has one of the best sense of humor of anybody that I know. It was a delight to be with him.

First we went on a walking tour around the Emperor's palace and then down Ginza Street, the Fifth Avenue of Tokyo. We took a subway to Tokyo University and in the forestry building I met a Professor with whom I had corresponded some years ago and Assistant Professor Minowa whom I met in Bucharest in 1978 and again in Fort Collins this past July. From there we took another subway to see some orange painted temples and then walked leisurely through a nearby area with literally hundreds of shops. We had Japanese meals for lunch and supper with raw tuna fish at the former and fried prawns at the latter. I'm a finicky eater except when travelling when I will try just about everything and enjoy everything. I thoroughly enjoyed both meals and had several more with my Japanese hosts.

## Saturday, September 1st

My host for the Kyoto trip was Assistant Professor Yukichi Konohira of the Forestry Faculty of Shinshu University which is not far from Niigata. I had met him in Bucharest last summer and in Fort Collins this summer. He came in the night before to meet me at 7:00 a.m. so that we could take the 8:01 a.m. "bullet" train to Kyoto. You can set your watch by the time those trains leave and arrive. In addition the cars are numbered and the platform is numbered and car 12 stopped exactly opposite the car 12 sign. That trip is almost three hours permitting good views of the countryside. We got a look at Mt. Fuji but it was cloudy so my pictures won't show much.

We went immediately to a Japanese inn (not western style) and left my bag and then on to the Faculty Club of Kyoto University where we met Assistant Professor Kazuhiko Ogino and we had lunch with him. We changed into field clothes and then Professor Ogino took us to the Kitayama forest region northwest of Kyoto. In Japan, forest land commonly passes down generation after generation. We were taken to a professionally trained forester who owns at least 200 hectares of which 50 are devoted to raising Sugi as ornamental posts. First we went to his home where his wife served us. Even by western standards his home was large. Then he took us into the forest and showed us every phase of the operation from the greenhouse to mature trees that are worth \$250.00 per tree standing. The mountains are very steep but produce very high grade sugi for which there is a constant market. That evening I had another Japanese meal that was most enjoyable.

## Sunday, September 2nd

Mr. Konohira's family lives in Kyoto as his father is a professor of physics in a nearby university. Mr. Konohira therefore lived in Kyoto for the first 24 years of his life and knows that ancient city that was the capital of Japan for nearly a thousand years very well. Sunday was to be for sight seeing and there is enough in and around Kyoto for fourteen days of Sundays in a row. By walking and taxis we went to and through a former palace of the Sho-gun, the Golden Temple, The Nishijin Textile Center, The Heian Shrine and lastly a handsome old wooden temple nestled against a mountain. I liked the last one the best of all. An extraordinarily busy and exciting day.

We took the bullet train and three hours were back in Tokyo where Paul T. met us and took me to the Fisher residence. The 1981 IUFRO

congress will meet in Kyoto so I saw many of the tourist attractions that I hope my wife and daughter will see with me two years hence.

Monday, September 3rd

Paul T. escorted me to Ueno Station where we again met Professor Satoo who would be my host for today. Mr. Konohira had never been to the new Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute in Tsukuba Science City so he came along with us. It is about an hour's train ride south of Tokyo.

Tokyo is a huge city. To reduce the congestion somewhat the government decided to move 46 major scientific laboratories out of the city. The area they selected is about a one-hour ride by train from Tokyo and extended about 18 kilometers in a northwesterly direction up a valley and is several kilometers in width. All of the major buildings are up and in use. Many residential apartment houses have been built and a university is under construction in the center of the area. The Forest and Forest Products Research Institute is in the most southerly location with other Agricultural Science buildings just to the north.

We were met and driven to the Institute which consists of an administrative building in brick hooked onto the large research building also in brick with about ten smaller separate buildings nearby. After removing our shoes and putting on slippers, a standard Japanese procedure, we went directly to the office of Dr. Mitsuma Matsui, the director general of the Institute. He told us about the laboratories and we discussed the forthcoming IUFRO congress in 1981. The liaison officer, Mr. S. H. Kataoka, took us on a tour of the buildings and then we had lunch with Dr. Matsui in his office.

After lunch we talked with Dr. S. Sasaki, who is in charge of tree physiology research. He showed us the phytotron and described the current projects. He studies with Dr. T. T. Kozlowski. Ted Kozlowski and I shared an office at Duke when we both were students of Dr. Paul Kramer in physiology (and I also a student of Professor F. X. Schumacher). These academic ties kept coming to the surface as well as scientific ties from correspondence and scientific meetings permitting informality almost at once generating a smooth and easy flow of scientific information.

In the time remaining before we had to get the train to Tokyo we went through the computer center and Forest Remote Sensing Laboratory where Dr. I. Ohnuki was doing interesting research with Landsat photography for which he could enhance the colors and change scales.

Outsiders have often characterized the Japanese as great copiers

and sometimes they say this about themselves. As we visited the individual laboratories of this great center, I concluded that this was a gross injustice to the intelligence, imagination and great drive of the Japanese people. I'm sure that they are doing dynamic new work and that all of us have much to learn from our Japanese neighbors in a mutual exchange of information. I certainly have never seen better facilities or equipment than they have in Tuskuba Science City.

When we got to Tokyo Mr. Konohira and I took the monorail, a new experience for me, to Haneda airport where we met Mr. Fisher so that we could take the 5:30 p.m. flight of 1 hour and 25 minutes to Chitose airport and then nearly an hour's bus ride to Sapporo where we spent the evening after another Japanese dinner.

### Tuesday, September 4th

Hokkaido is the northern most large island of Japan. It is about the same size as Maine but has 40 more days that are frost free, more rain, better soil in the valleys and higher productivity of the forests except on the steep upper parts of mountains. It is much more rural than the main island.

Dave and I got up early in order to take the train at 7:05 for the 2:25 minute trip to Furano. From there a short cab ride to the Yamabe head office. Professor H. Hatano, director of the forest, and Dr. I. Takahashi gave us a background on this forest established in 1899. There are 22,900 acres for practical forest management and for research with a staff of five scientists and a number of professionals and other workers making a total of 72 people.

We were taken into a building to see the tree trunks of mature specimens of all species growing on the forest. A most impressive collection. Then we walked through the nursery. Dave noticed that the transplant beds were very long and about 6 or 8 trees in width. He observed that they were all taller in the middle row and shorter in the outside row. The director contacted the scientist in charge who said that this effect was due in part to the fertilizer washing out of the sides and compaction along the side due to the tractor but primarily because the men tend to put the tall trees in the middle. The Japanese are by nature artistic and this extends even to transplanting trees that look better when taller in the middle. There was a most attractive flower bed in front of the main building with a grassy plot near the road. Our excellent sandwich lunch was on tables on that grassy plot. A most delightful place for a good lunch.

After lunch we were taken on a tour of a portion of the forest to see various plantations and to observe the method by which natural

regeneration was being achieved to maintain the mixed forests. The Japanese are excellent planners and our trip was the route planned for the 1981 IUFRO field trip. The thick and rapid growing bamboo is a problem so in some places small bulldozers are being used to create cleared places in the hope that the desired forest species will seed in before the bamboo takes over. At one point a mother fox with two little ones dashed down the gravel road. Then shortly after another larger red fox was in the road and left and returned three more times before disappearing.

Mr. Fisher was the host for dinner which included Professor Hatano, his driver and me. We ate in the Furano Prince Hotel which is adjacent to a famous downhill skiing area. That has to be the most plush hotel that I've ever been in. We were taken to the Furano station for a 1:18 minute train ride to Iwamizawa where we spent the night.

### Wednesday, September 5th

Dr. S. Satoo, vice director of the OJI Institute for Tree Improvement met us at the hotel and took us to the headquarters located on the edge of town. Dr. Shigeru Chiba, the director, joined us and the two men gave us a rundown on the development and activities of the Institute. Both men have been there the full 23 years of its existence. OJI owns about 100,000 hectares and is a large company and owns the largest amount of forest land of any single owner in Japan. Tree improvement has been its primary concern with silvicultural improvement under Dr. Satoo coming of importance as the stands have become large enough. Also, they are now investigation methods of maintaining natural mixed forests. Then we were taken into an adjacent room that visually displays all of their research and includes tree trunks of mature specimens that grow in that region. It rained quite hard in the morning so that our tour of the nursery and seed orchard was shortened. For lunch we were taken to the handsomely appointed guest office and had a lunch fit for a hungry king. The dessert was a combination of our cantaloupe and their musk melon and was better than either.

After lunch we toured the forest and literally saw hundreds of plantations as 60% of the 5,000 hectare forest is in plantations. Not only what we saw was impressive but the fact that the two men showing us the research had been there from the very beginning added much because this was their life's work. The caliber of the research is extremely high and as they publish their results they must be commended on their magnificent contribution to knowledge for the future of the forests of Hokkaido. The driver then took us to Chitose for the return flight to Haneda airport in Tokyo where the driver was

waiting to take us to the Fisher home.

#### Thursday, September 6th

Dr. Minowa picked me up at the Weyerhaeuser office and we proceeded by subway to the Tokyo Art Museum. We spent several hours there looking at much that was old, beautiful and depicting the life of these ancient peoples. My wife and my daughters would have appreciated the artistic accomplishments more than this old timber beat. There were a number of museums nearby but time did not permit going to them. After lunch Dr. Minowa returned me to the Weyerhaeuser office.

Despite his heavy busy schedule, Dave Fisher took me to the Manjii temple and we leisurely walked through the grounds. Right in the heart of Tokyo we were in a calm, beautiful forest area. Then he took me back to his home because he speaks Japanese and the driver didn't know how to get there even with a diagram of instructions. Dave had a commitment elsewhere so Irene took me to a charming French restaurant near their home. This was the last evening of my trip to the USSR and Japan and we talked about it and other matters at their home.

#### Friday, September 7th

Up early with breakfast before 6:00 a.m. as the driver took me at 6:20 a.m. to be at the Tokyo Air Terminal the required three hours before flight time. This efficient system took my bag there and I didn't have to bother with it until I got to New York. My companions on the return JAL flight were two Japanese girls age 7 and 8, respectively. They had been visiting grandparents and were returning to their respective homes in New York where their parents live. Both are completely bilingual and were positively charming. All flights arrived on schedule and I was home on schedule with my wife and daughter waiting for me at the Bangor Airport.

Physically, the trip was over and is over but not in my mind. My enthusiasm for new countries, new cultures, and new peoples seems to increase rather than decrease with the passage of years for there is so much to learn and understand about the world in which we live. The extraordinary part of this trip was that there was so much that was entirely new and different. I've spent nearly a whole day typing furiously and realize that this covers ten pages. Ten

pages, yet I'm sure I've failed to mention many things such as the art work that Professor Konohira, the father of Mr. Konohira, gave me. I feel as though I've touched lightly on surface matters and failed to give you my impressions of what I saw. To do that would take much careful thought on my part and another 200 pages.

There was another unusual part to this trip that was most flattering and to use modern slang continually "massaged my ego". I was accorded the deferential treatment and consideration reserved for royalty or nobel laureates. I will confess that I enjoyed every moment of it, yet I was forever conscious of my modest accomplishments and that what I experienced was far beyond anything that I deserve and certainly anything that I expected. Again and again I express my thanks and appreciation to so many who did so much for me. (September 12, 1979)

ハロルド・E.ヤング氏はメイン大学のProfessor of Complete Tree Instituteであり、この分野の第一人者で、今日、最も活動的な林学者の一人であります。この旅行記はメイン大学長および友人宛に書かれた報告ですが、日本の森林、林業研究についての生々とした印象とその活動力は読者を引き付けます。ヤング氏の了解を得たので掲載します。(編集担当 木平)